Application No.: 09/431,607 Amdt. dated September 25, 2003 Reply to Office Action of March 25, 2003

This listing of claims will replace all versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

## IN THE CLAIMS:

## Claims 1-23 (canceled)

Claim 24 (currently amended): A composition comprising an inactivated 1 2 retrovirus, wherein the retrovirus is inactivated due to disruption of one or more CCHC 3 zinc fingers by contact with a compound selected from the group consisting of: 4 disulfides having the formula R-S-S-R; 5 maleimides having the formula alpha-halogenated ketones having the formula hydrazides having the formula R-NH-NH-R; nitric oxide and derivatives containing the NO group; cupric ions and complexes containing Cu<sup>+2</sup>; and 9 ferric ions and complexes containing Fe<sup>+3</sup>; 10 11 wherein the compound is not a C-nitroso compound of the formula R-12 C-NO 5,5-Dithiobis(2-Nitrobenzoic Acid), and wherein R is any atom or molecule, and 13 X is selected from the group consisting of F, I, Br and Cl, and wherein contacting said 14 retrovirus with said compound inactivates said retrovirus. 1 Claim 25 (currently amended): The composition of claim 24, wherein the 2 compound is selected from the group consisting of: Tetramethylthiuram Disulfide, 3 Tetraethylthiurarn Disulfide, Tetraisopropylthiuram Disulfide, Tetrabutylthiuram Disulfide, Dicyclopentamethylenethiuram Disulfide, Isopropylxanthic Disulfide, 4

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- 5 O,O-Diethyl Dithiobis-(Thioformate), Benzoyl Disulfide, Benzoylmethyl Disulfide,
- 6 Formamidine Disulfide 2HCl, 2-(Diethylamino)ethyl Disulfide, Aldrithiol-2,
- 7 Aldrithiol-4, 2,2-Dithiobis(Pyridine N-Oxide), 6,6-Dithiodinicotinic Acid,
- 8 4-Methyl-2-Quinolyl Disulfide, 2-Quinolyl Disulfide, 2,2 Dithiobis(benzothiazole),
- 9 2,2-Dithiobis(4-Tert-Butyl-1-Isopropyl)-Imidazole, 4-(dimethylamino)phenyl disulfide,
- 10 2-Acetamidophenyl Disulfide, 2,3-Dimethoxyphenyl Disulfide, 4-Acetamidophenyl
- Disulfide, 2-(Ethoxycarboxamido)phenyl Disulfide, 3-Nitrophenyl Disulfide,
- 12 4-Nitrophenyl Disulfide, 2-Aminophenyl Disulfide, 2,2 Dithiobis(benzonitrile), p-Tolyl
- Disulfoxide, 2,4,5-Trichlorophenyl Disulfide, 4-Methylsulfonyl-2-Nitrophenyl Disulfide,
- 4-Methylsulfonyl-2-Nitrophenyl Disulfide, 3,3-Dithiodipropionic Acid,
- 15 N,N-Diformyl-L-Cystine, Trans-1,2-Dithiane-4,5-Diol, 2-Chloro-5-Nitrophenyl
- Disulfide, 2-Amino-4-Chlorophenyl Disulfide, 5,5-Dithiobis(2-Nitrobenzoie Acid),
- 2,2-Dithiobis(1-Naphtylamine), 2,4-Dinitrophenyl p-Tolyl Disulfide, 4-Nitrophenyl
- 18 p-Tolyl Disulfide, and 4-Chloro-3-Nitrophenyl Disulfide formamidine disulfide
- 19 dihydrochloride.
- 1 Claim 26 (original): The composition of claim 24, wherein the compound
- 2 selected from the group consisting of disulfides having the formula R-S-S-R.
- 1 Claim 27 (original): The composition of claim 24, wherein the compound
- 2 is Aldrithiol-2.
- 1 Claim 28 (original): The composition of claim 24, wherein the retrovirus
- 2 is selected from the group consisting of *Lentiviruses* and *Oncoviruses*.
- 1 Claim 29 (original): The composition of claim 28, wherein said
- 2 retrovirus is an HIV-1 retrovirus.